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AMAR CHITRA KATHA

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Mahabharata - 18

Indraprastha Lost

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

DILIP KADAM

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The seventeenth session of our presentation of Vaishampayana's recital of Vyasa's Mahabharata narrated how during the Rajasooya Yajna performed by Yudhishthira, Shishupala spoke ill of Krishna again and again when the Pandavas honoured Krishna before all the other invitees. Our rendition of this session concluded with the slaying of Shishupala and the protection of the Yajna by Krishna till its completion.

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Mahabharata - 18

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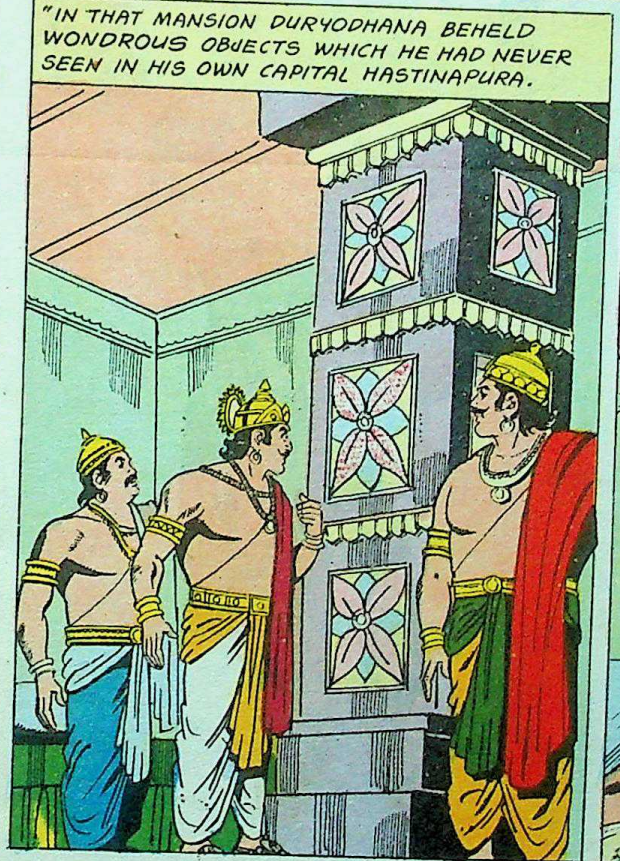

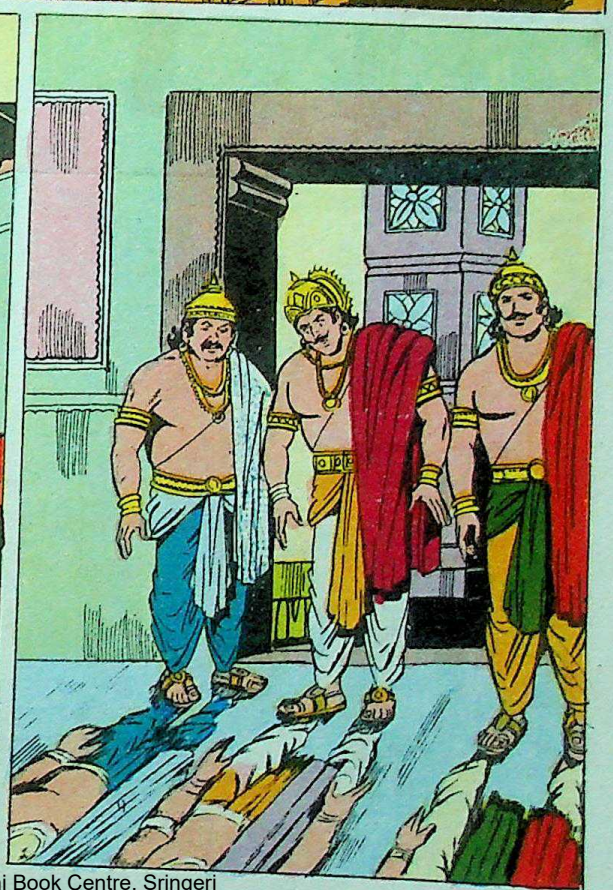

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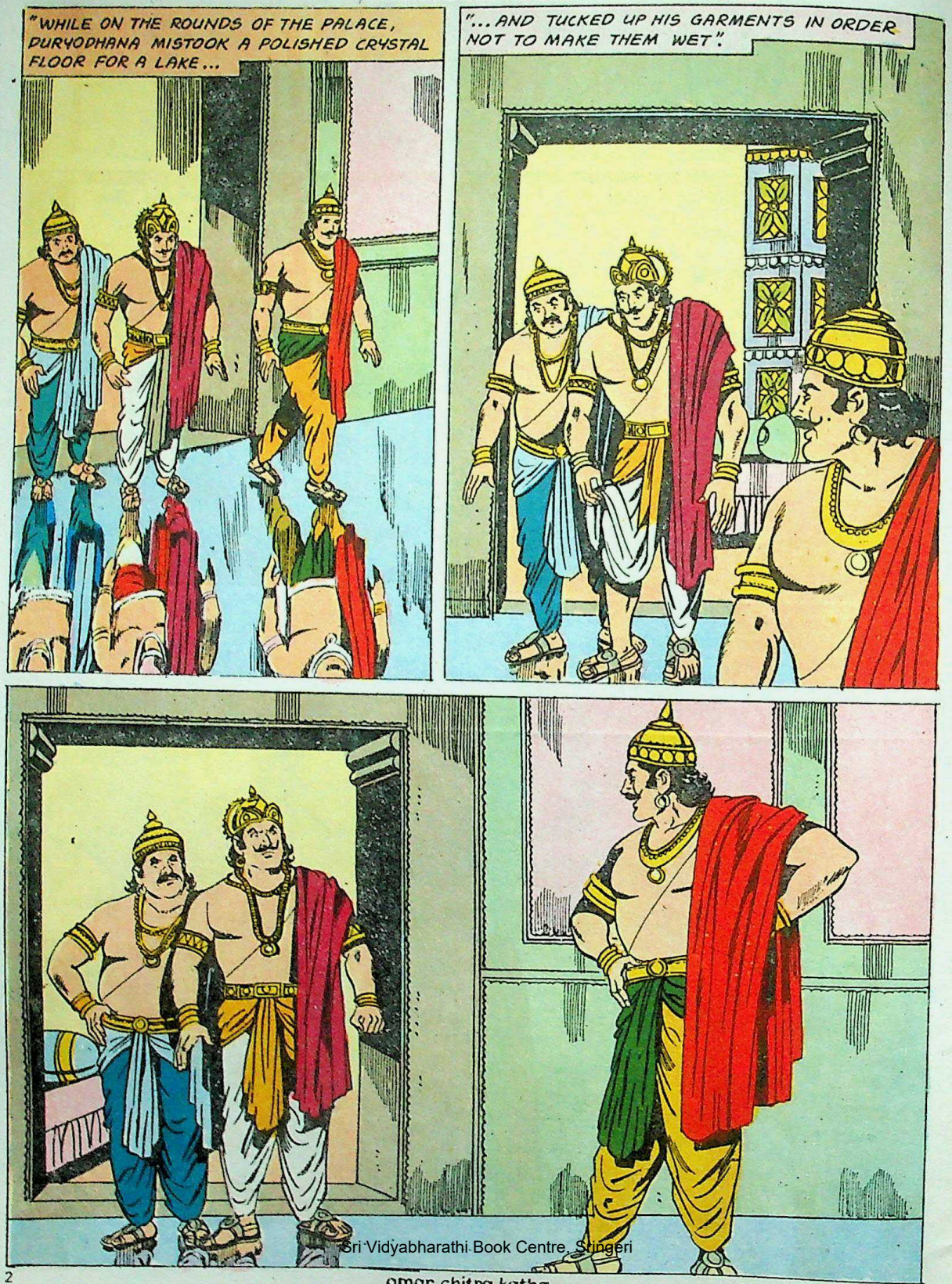

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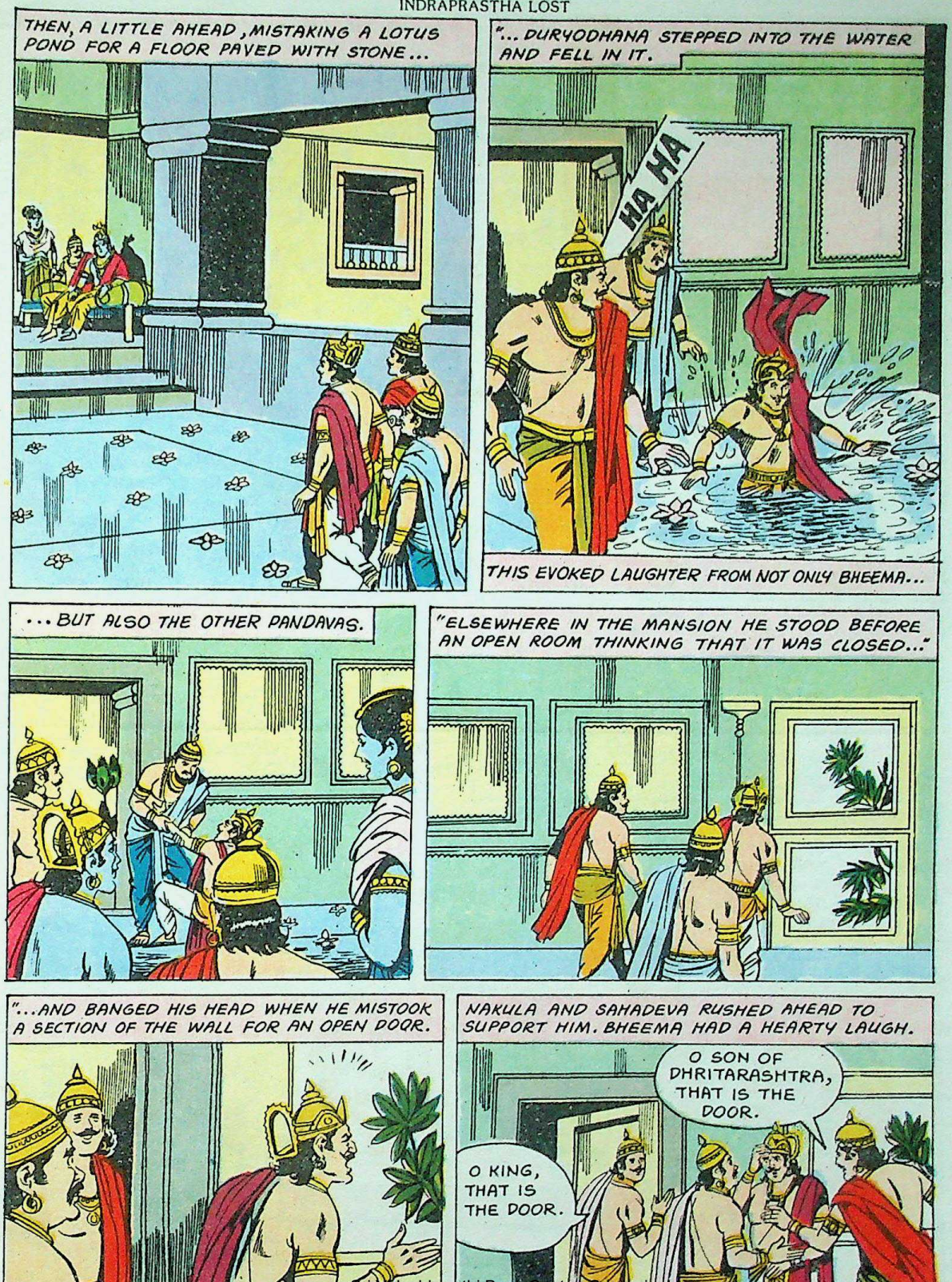

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DURYODHANA RETURNED TO HASTINAPURA FILLED WITH ENVY FOR THE FABULOUS WEALTH OF THE PANDAVAS AND SMARTING UNDER THE HUMILIATION HE SUFFERED AT INDRA-PRASTHA.

"THE PROSPERITY OF THE PANDAVAS FURTHER VITIATED THE MIND OF DURYODHANA.

O UNCLE, BEHOLDING THE GLORIOUS WEALTH OF THE PANDAVAS, I AM BURNING WITH RESENTMENT.

WHO AMONG THE MIGHTY WILL TOLERATE AN ENEMY PROSPERING?

GIVE ME YOUR CONSENT. I WILL SUBDUE THE PANDAVAS WITH THE HELP OF OUR VALIANT ALLIES.

THEN SHAKUNI SAID —

THE PANDAVAS, THEIR ALLIES, KRISHNA AND DRUPADA, AND THEIR SONS CANNOT BE VANQUISHED EVEN BY THE CELESTIALS.

BUT O PRINCE, I KNOW A STRATAGEM TO OBTAIN THE IMMENSE RICHES POSSESSED BY YUDHISHTHIRA.

O UNCLE, TELL ME THAT STRATAGEM. I WANT TO SUBDUE YUDHISHTHIRA WITHOUT ENDANGERING MY KIN.

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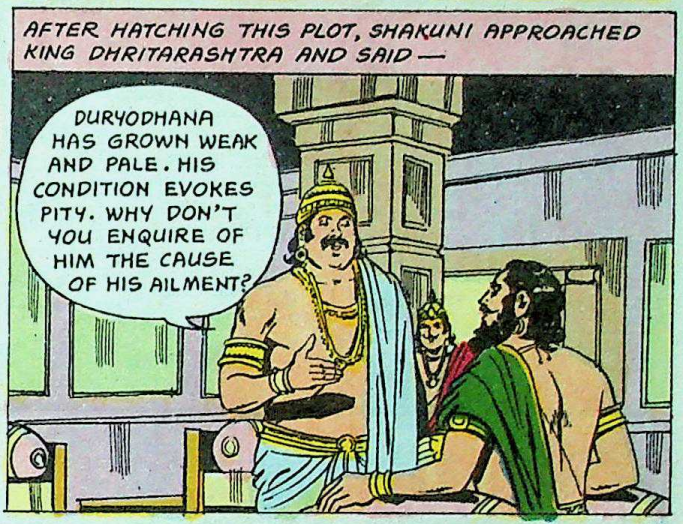

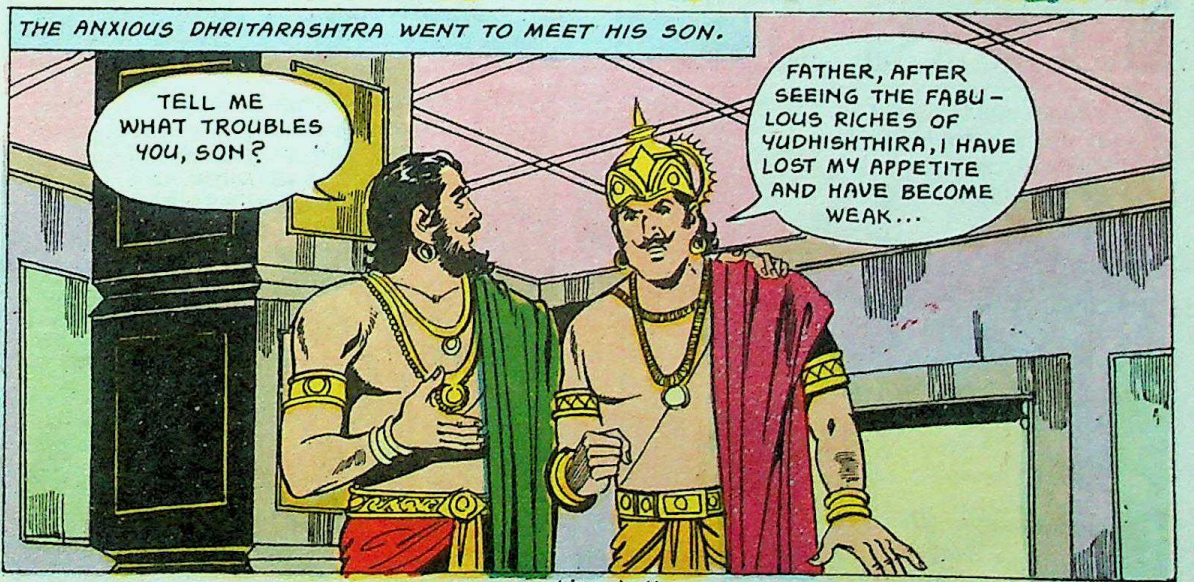

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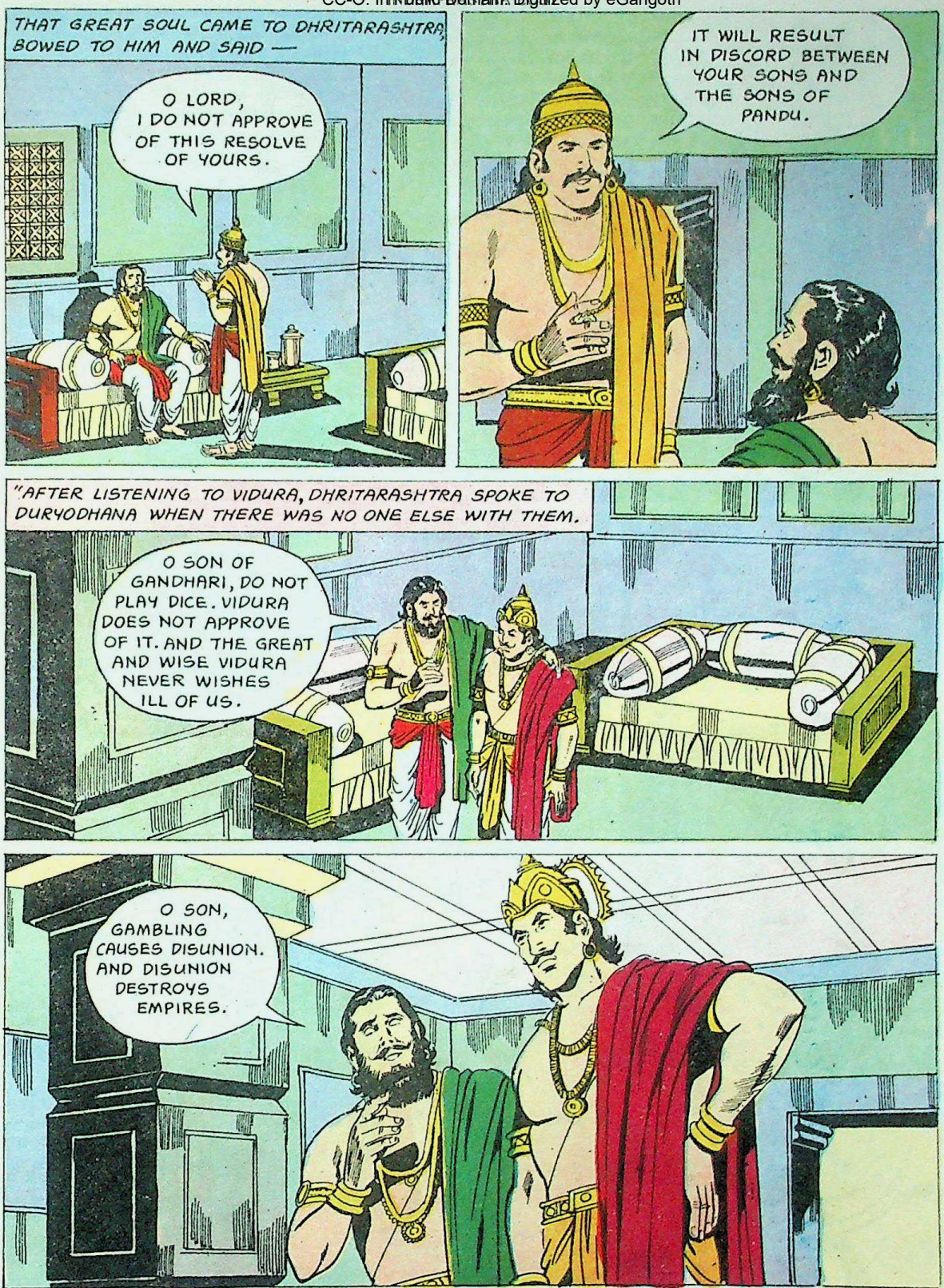

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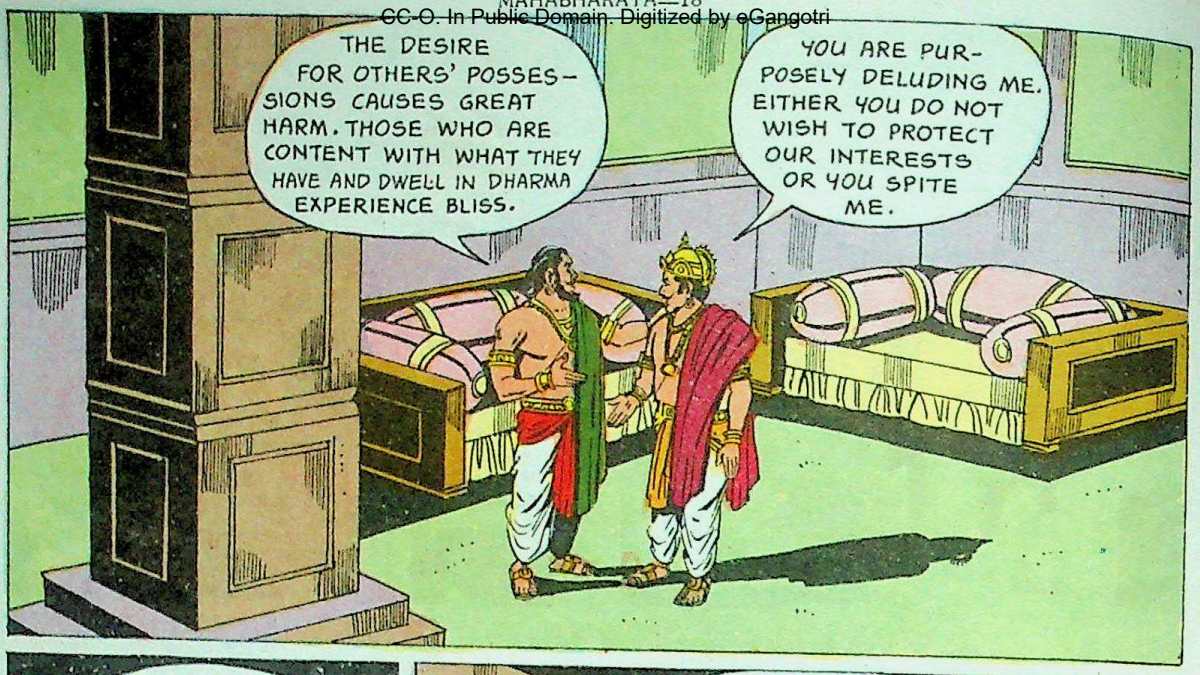

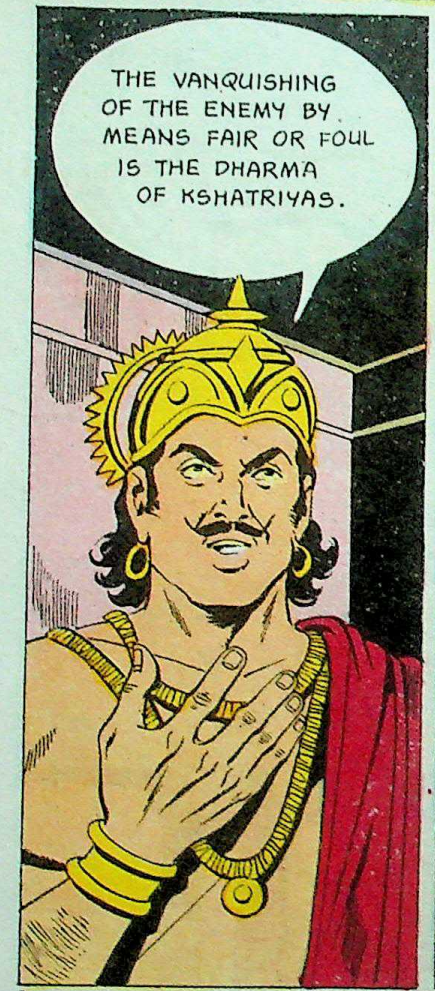

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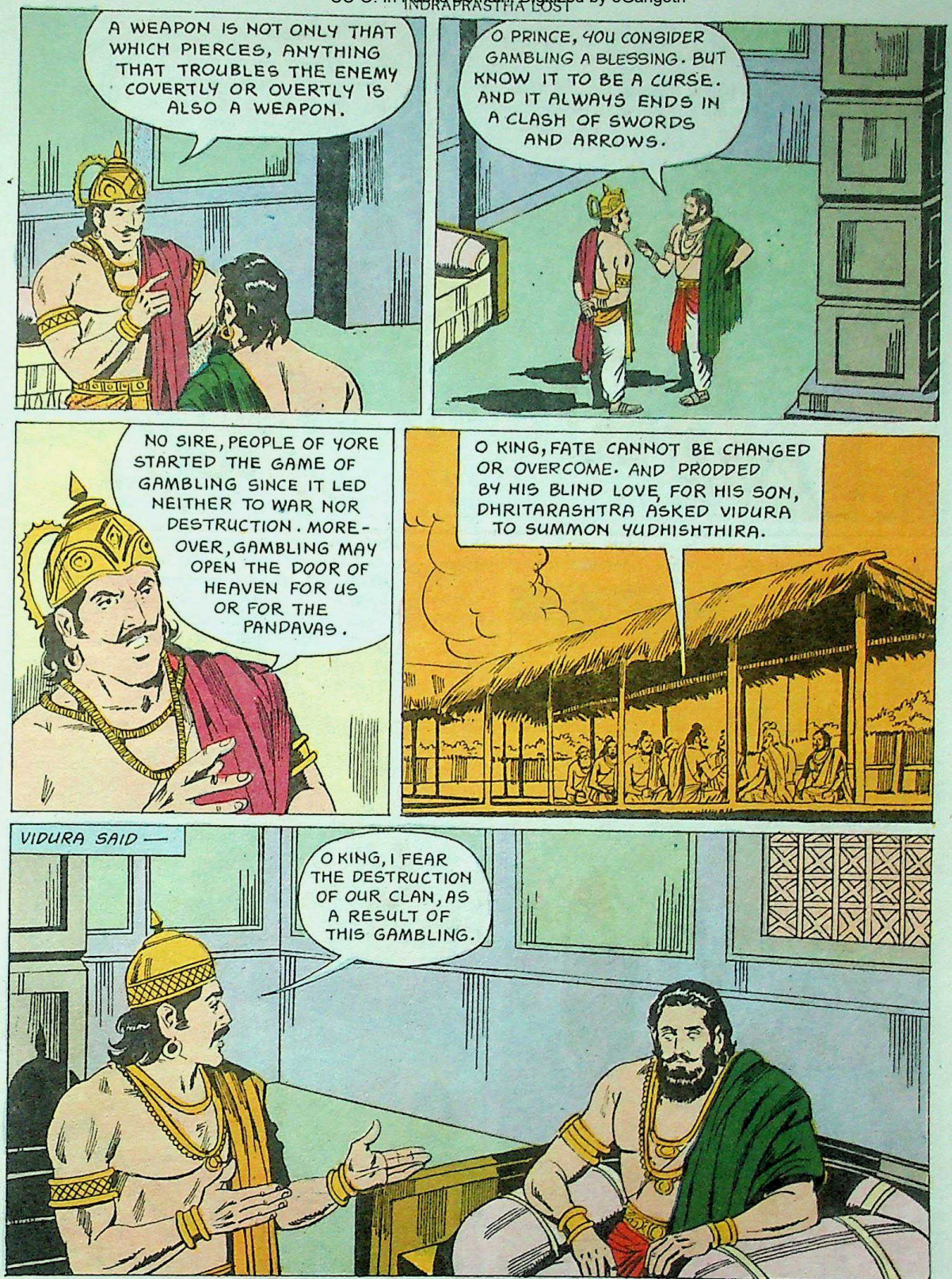

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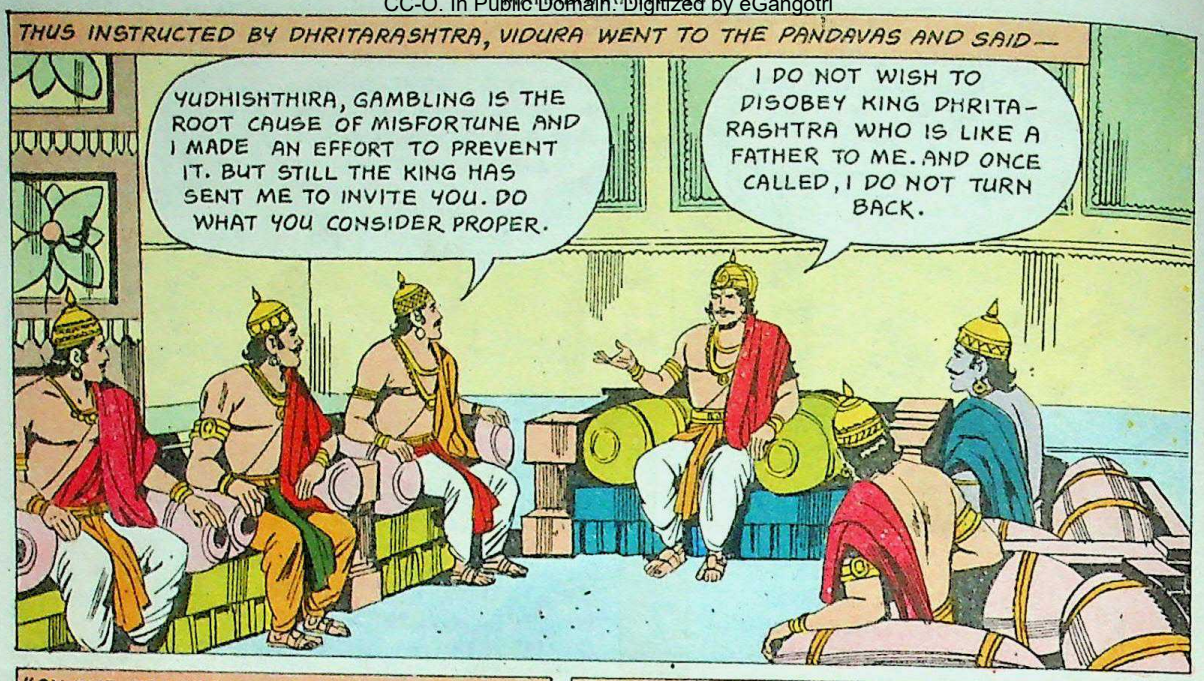

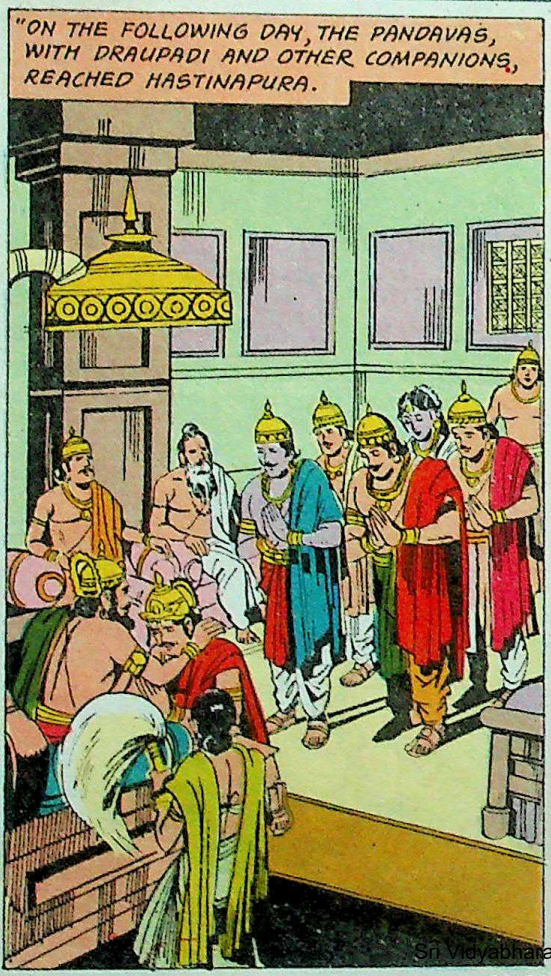

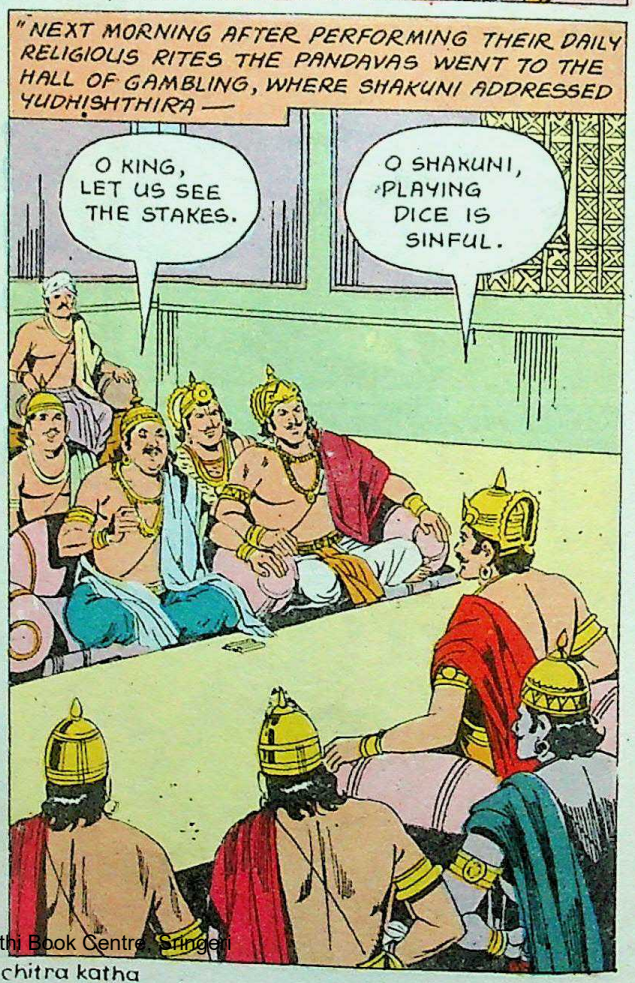

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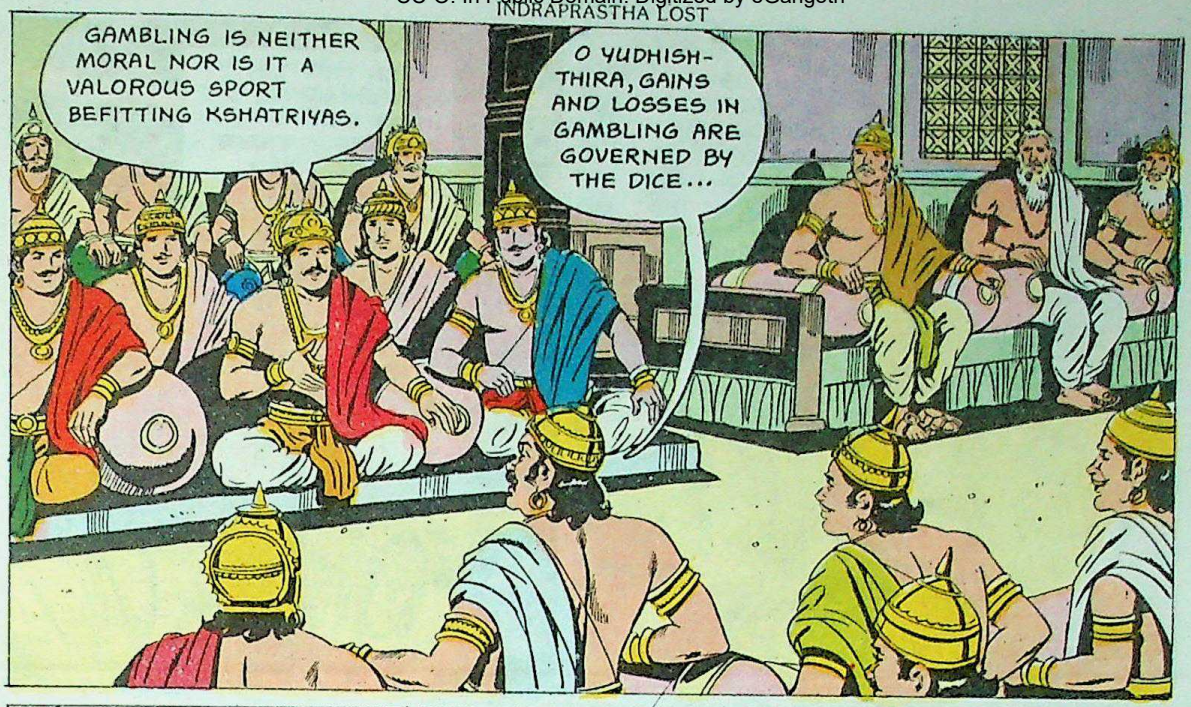

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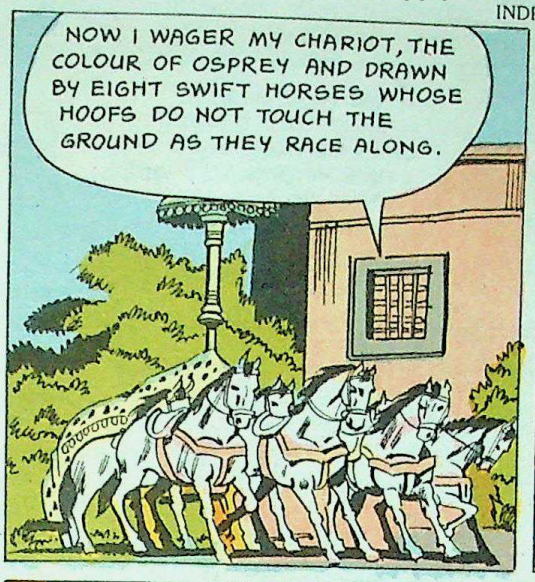

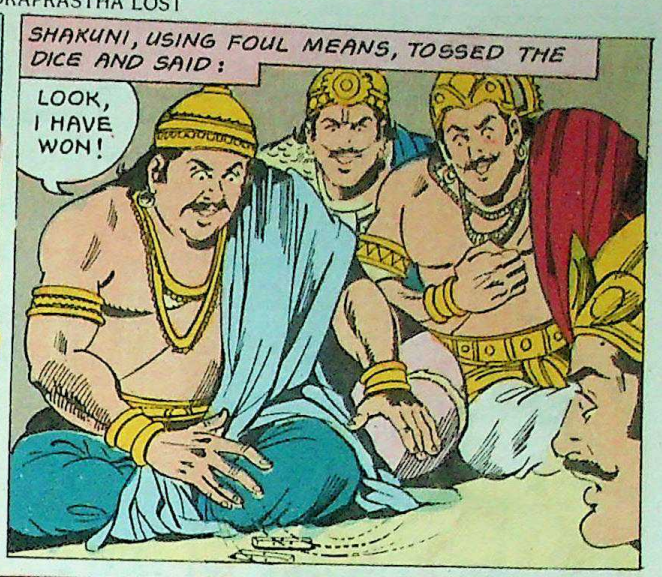

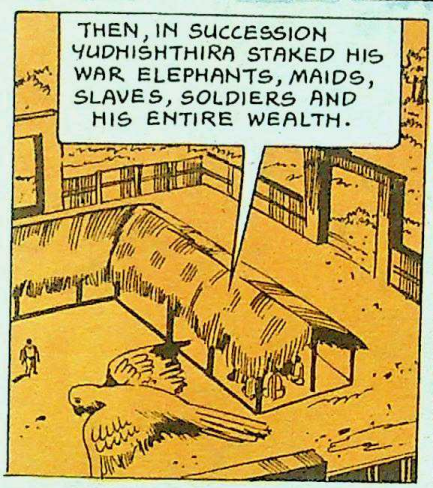

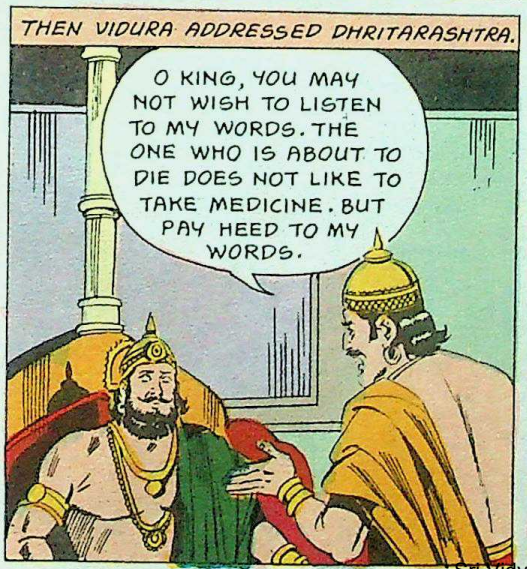

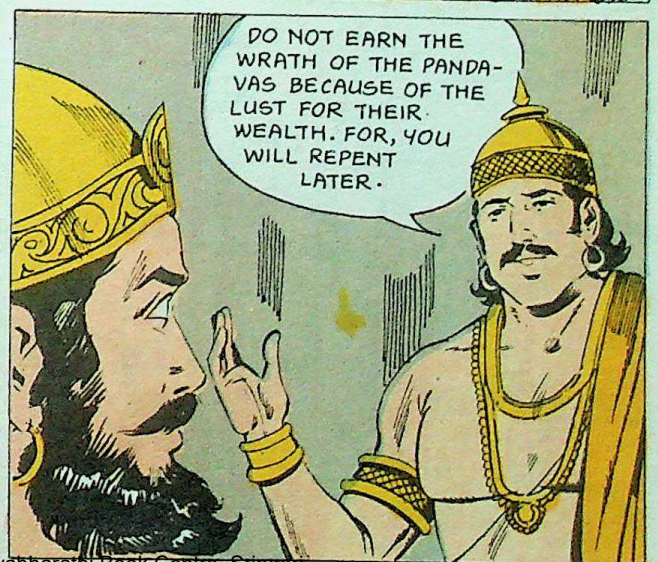

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HAVING LOST ALL HIS WEALTH, YUDHISHTHIRA SAID —

NOW I WAGER THE YOUTHFUL, MIGHTY ARMED NAKULA WHO IS OF DARK COMPLEXION, RED EYES AND LEONINE SHOULDERS.

NOW I STAKE SAHADEVA, WHO RULES ACCORDING TO DHARMA AND IS KNOWN AS LEARNED ALL OVER THE WORLD.

LO, I HAVE WON.

NOW I WAGER THE MIGHTY BHEEMA WHO IS SUPREME IN MACE-COMBAT.

THIS ARJUNA IS LIKE A SHIP AND CARRIES US ACROSS THE OCEAN OF WAR. HE IS A CONQUEROR OF HIS FOES AND A MIGHTY PRINCE. WITH THAT ARJUNA, THE ONE WARRIOR IN THE WORLD WHO DOES NOT DESERVE THIS, I GAMBLE.

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...YOU ARE A MERE DEER AND YET ARE TRYING TO ENRAGE THE TIGERS.

FIE ON YOU, VIDURA.

DURYODHANA THEN ADDRESSED HIS CHARIOTEER.

O PRATIKAMI, GO AND FETCH DRAUPADI.

PRATIKAMI WENT TO DRAUPADI'S QUARTERS.

DURYODHANA HAS WON YOU FROM YUDHISHTHIRA. I HAVE COME TO FETCH YOU.

O CHARIOTEER, NO PRINCE WOULD EVER PLAY WITH HIS WIFE AS THE STAKE. DID YUDHISHTHIRA HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO WAGER?

WHEN HE LOST HIS BROTHERS AND THEN HIMSELF, HE STAKED YOU.

THEN GO BACK TO THE ASSEMBLY. ASK THAT GAMBLER WHOM HE LOST FIRST, HIMSELF OR ME.

PRATIKAMI CONVEYED DRAUPADI'S WORDS TO YUDHISHTHIRA WHO WAS STRUCK DUMB ON HEARING THEM AND SAT LIKE ONE LIFELESS. DURYODHANA THEN SAID TO DUHSHASANA —

GO AND BRING HER HERE.

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TO CARRY OUT THE COMMAND OF HIS BROTHER DUHSHASANA ENTERED THE QUARTERS OF THE PANDAVAS, AND SPOKE TO DRAUPADI THUS—

O PANCHALI, THE KAURAVAS HAVE WON YOU RIGHTEOUSLY. COME AND SERVE US.

ADDRESSED THUS BY DUHSHASANA, DRAUPADI ROSE AND WIPING HER TEARS PROCEEDED TOWARDS THE QUARTERS OF THE KAURAVA WOMEN.

ROARING WITH ANGER, DUHSHASANA RUSHED AND CAUGHT HER BY THE HAIR.

DRAGGED ALONG, HER SLENDER BODY BENT, SHE SAID IN A LOW TONE:

O WICKED WRETCH, I AM WEARING ONLY ONE GARMENT. I AM UNWELL. I AM NOT FIT TO GO TO THE ASSEMBLY.

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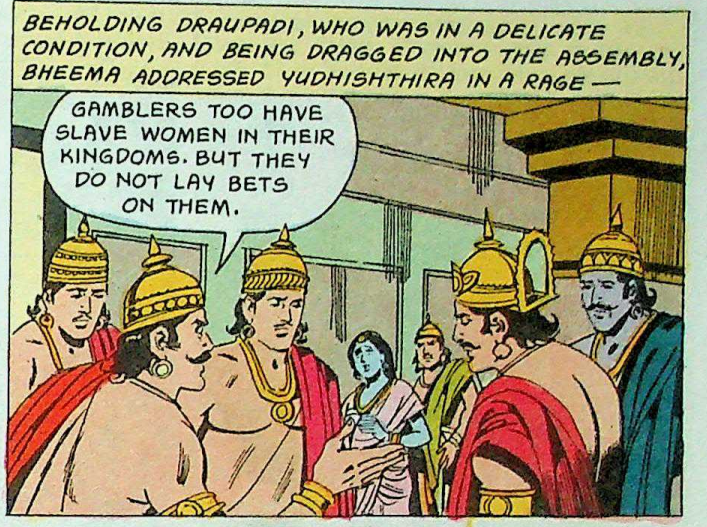

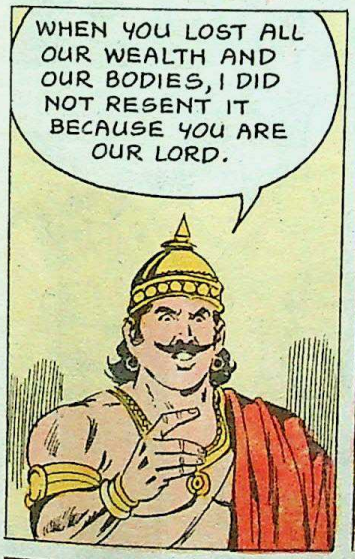

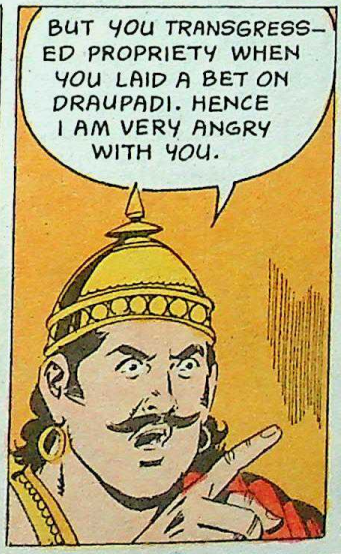

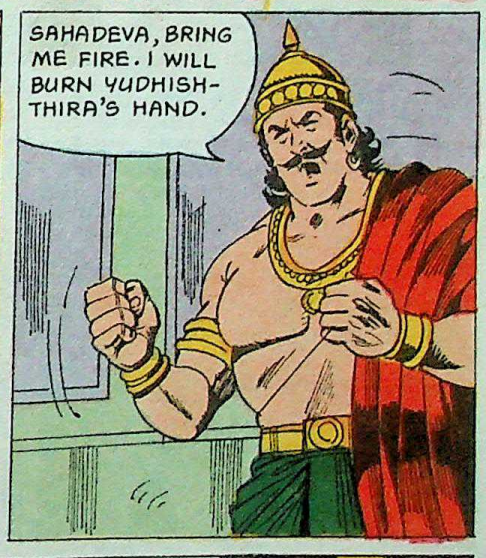

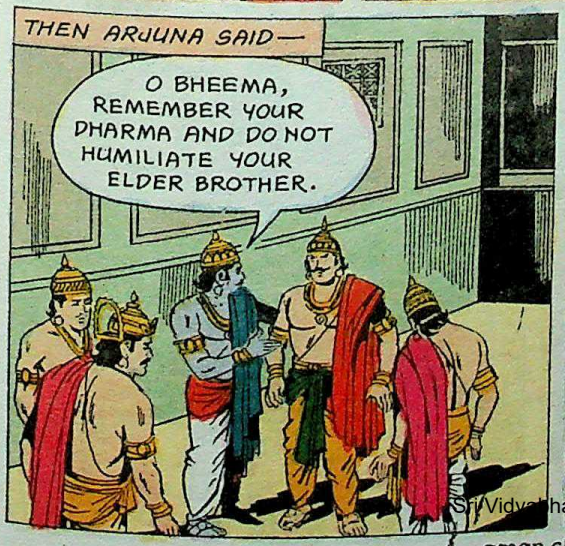

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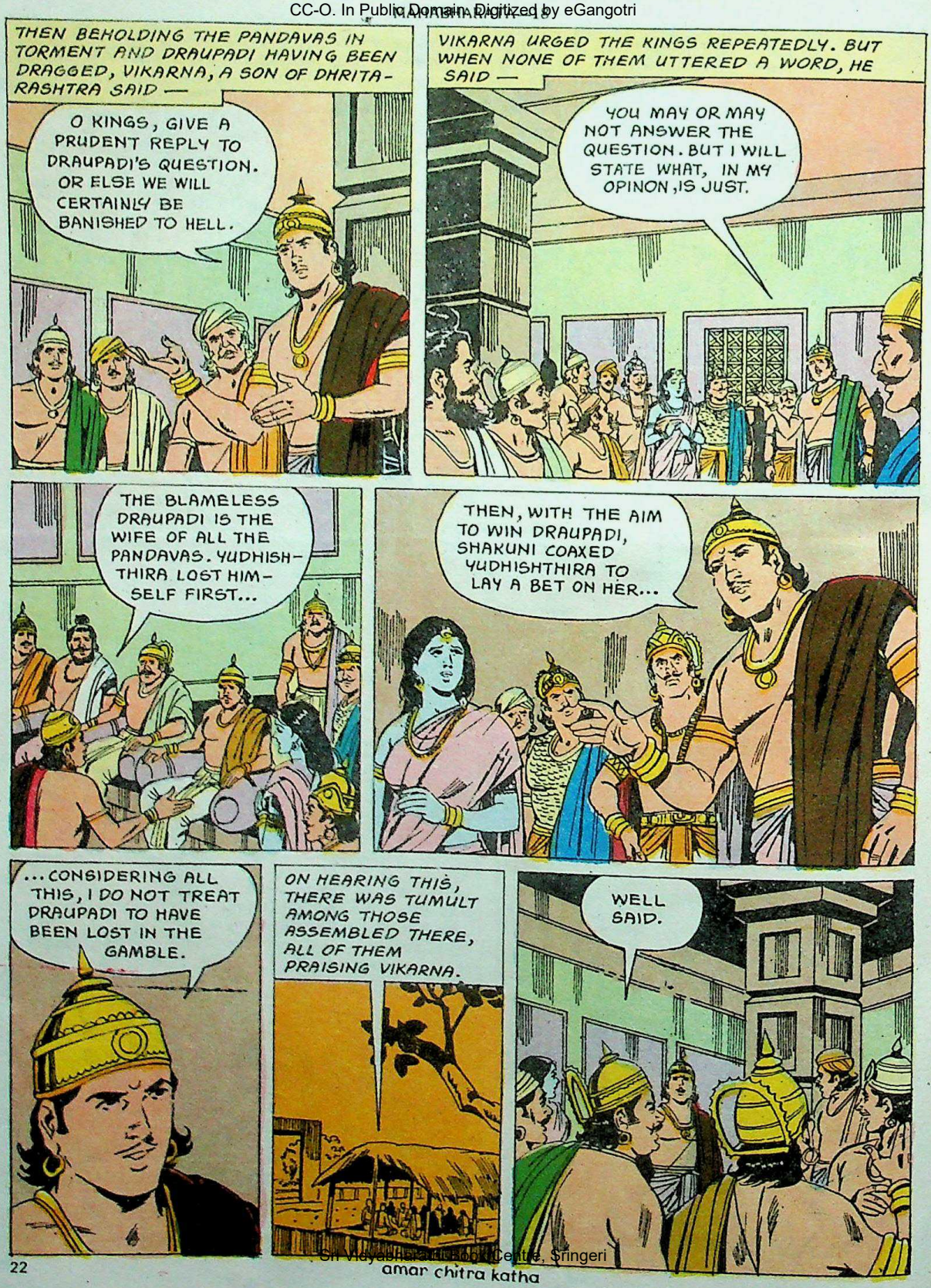

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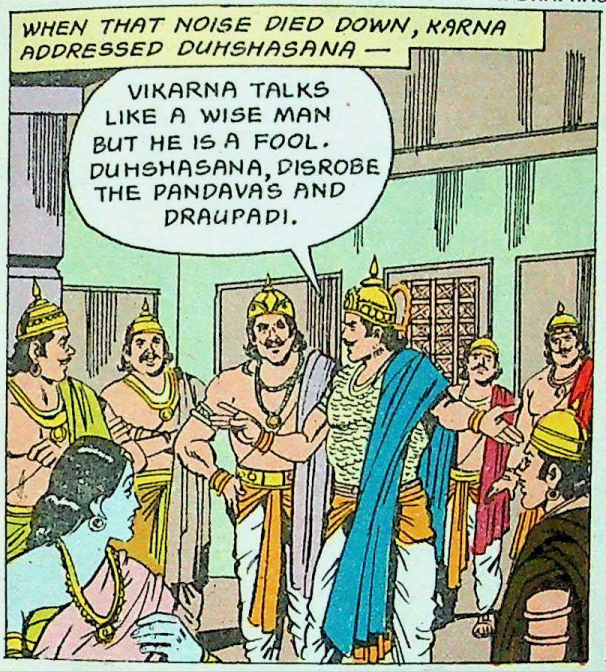

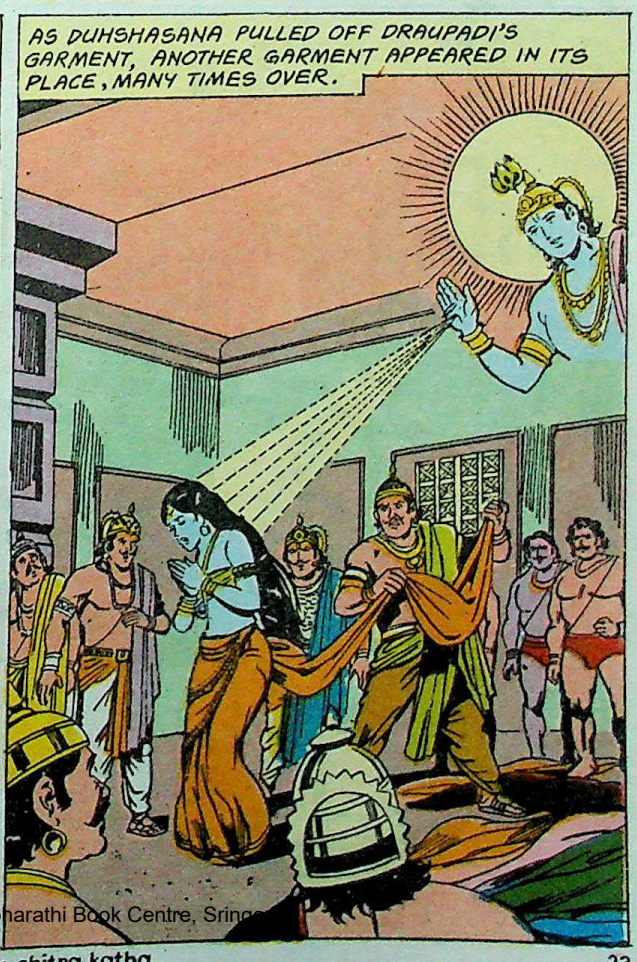

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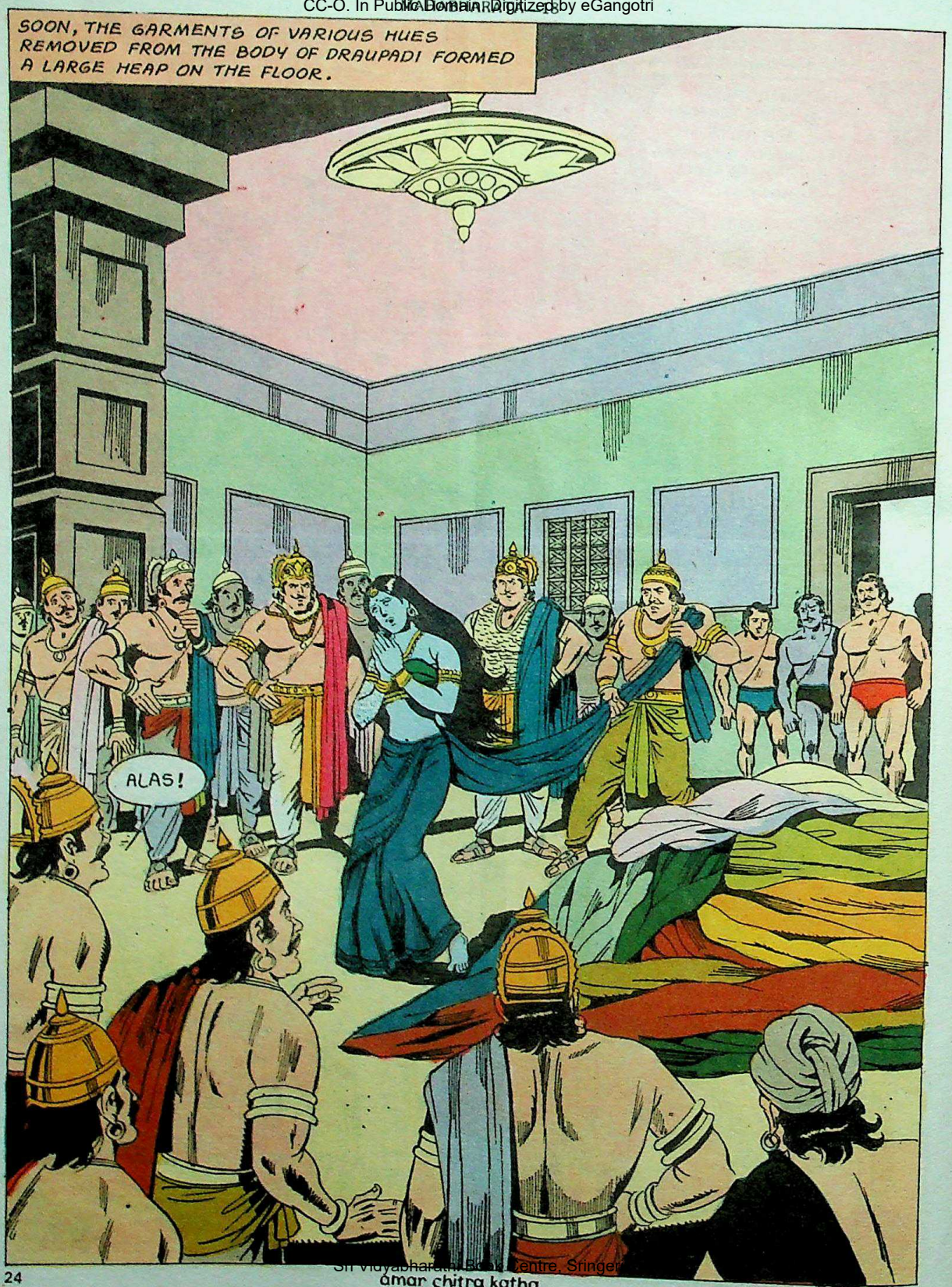

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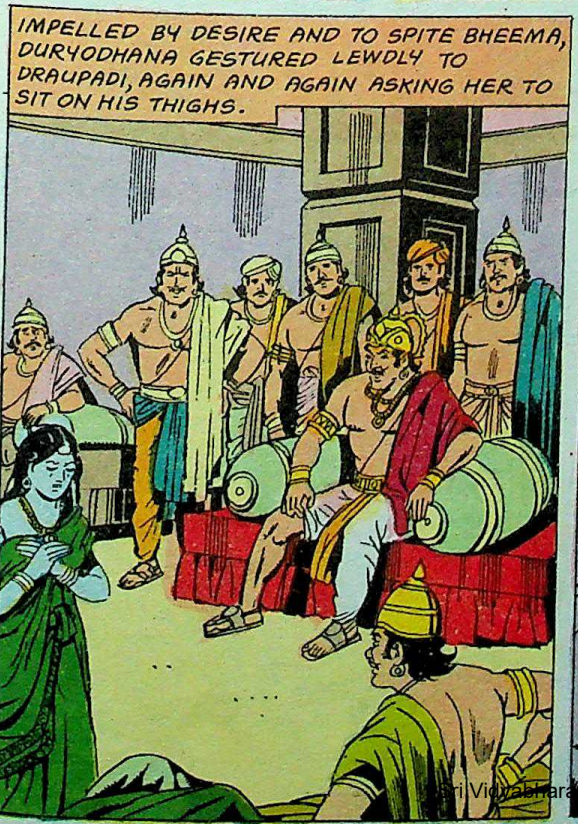

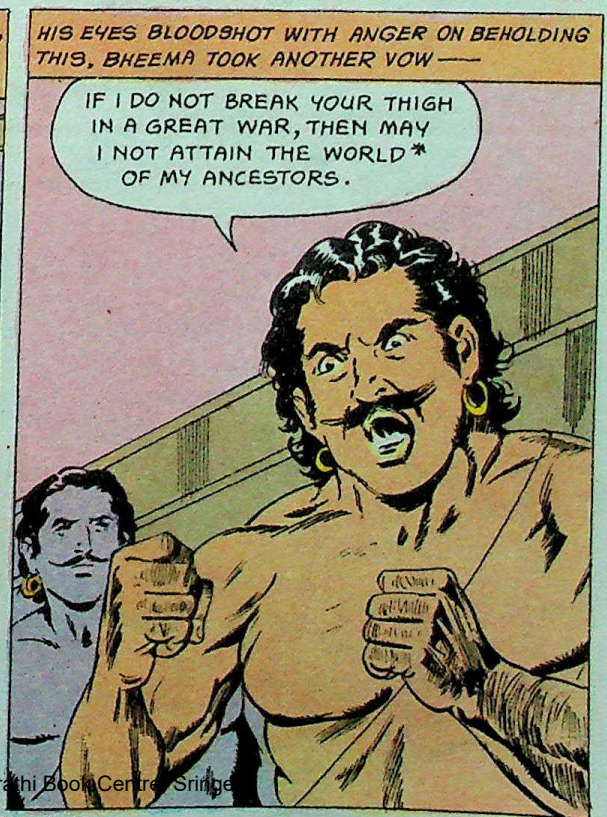

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AT THAT MOMENT A JACKAL HOWLED IN DHRITARASHTRA'S YAJNA HALL AND ASSES AND CARRION BIRDS ANSWERED IT FROM ALL SIDES. DISTURBED BY THE NOISE GANDHARI AND VIDURA CONFERRED WITH DHRITARASHTRA.

THEN DHRITARASHTRA SAID TO DURYODHANA —

O FEEBLE-MINDED DURYODHANA, YOU SHALL SURELY BE DESTROYED FOR YOUR IMPROPER DEEDS.

AND THEN DHRITARASHTRA ADDRESSED DRAUPADI.

YOU ARE MY NOBLE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW. ASK OF ME ANY BOON YOU DESIRE.

MAY YUDHISHTHIRA BE FREE.

SO BE IT. O CHASTE WOMAN, YOU DESERVE A SECOND BOON.

THEN GRANT FREEDOM TO BHEEMA, ARJUNA, NAKULA AND SAHADEVA AND GIVE THEM BACK THEIR CHARIOTS AND WEAPONS.

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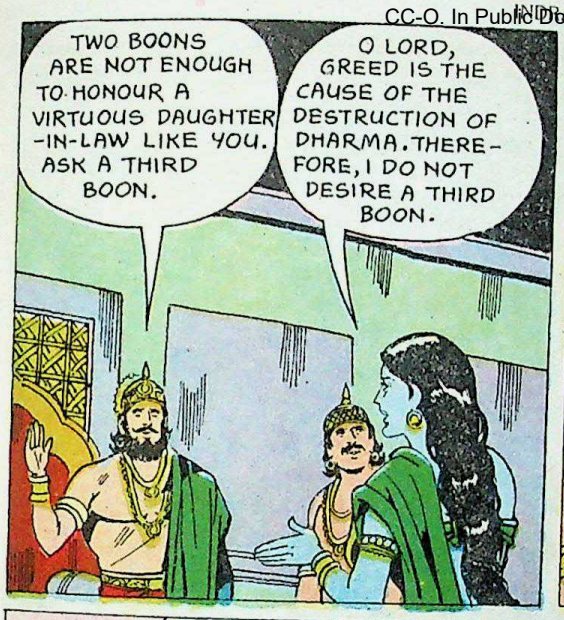

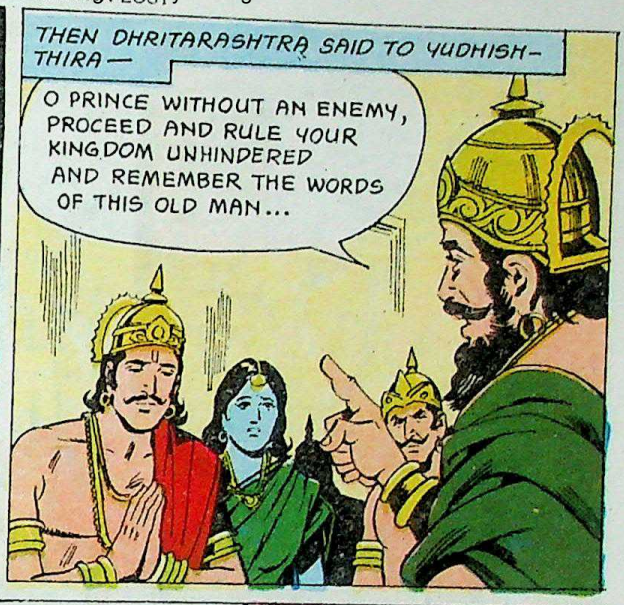

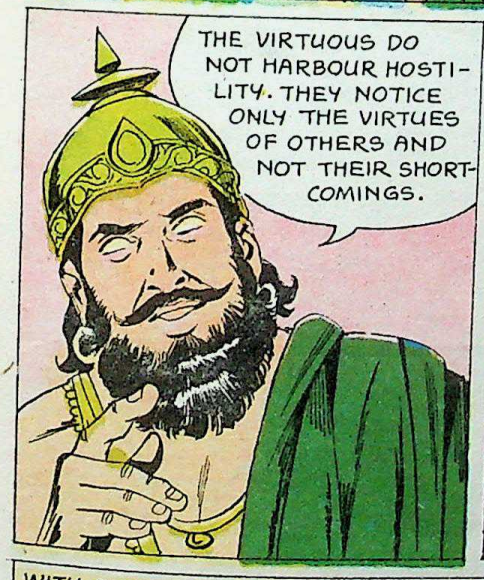

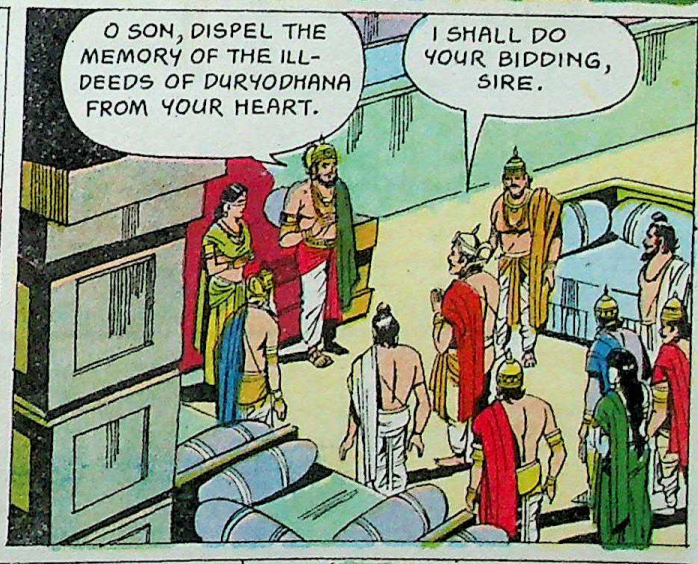

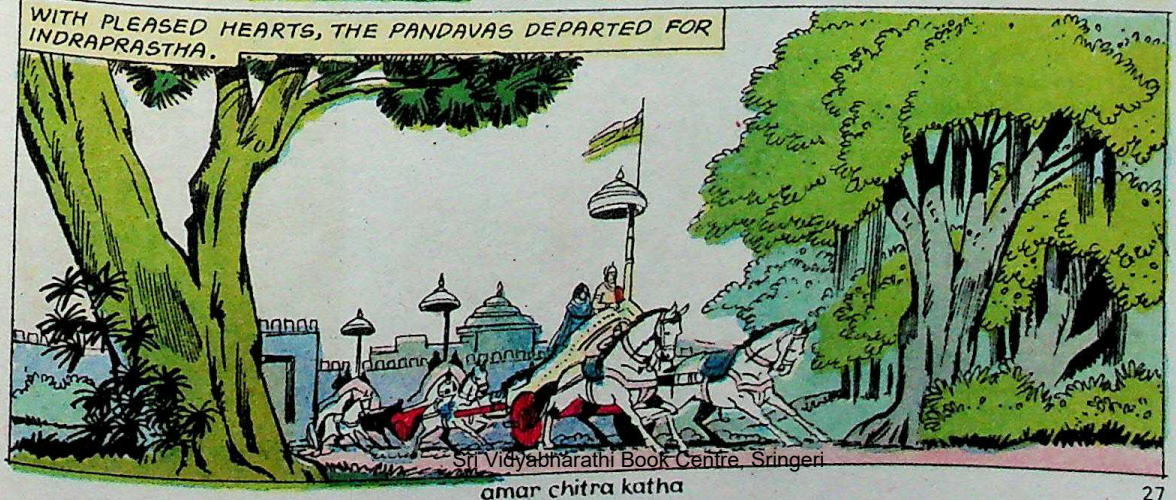

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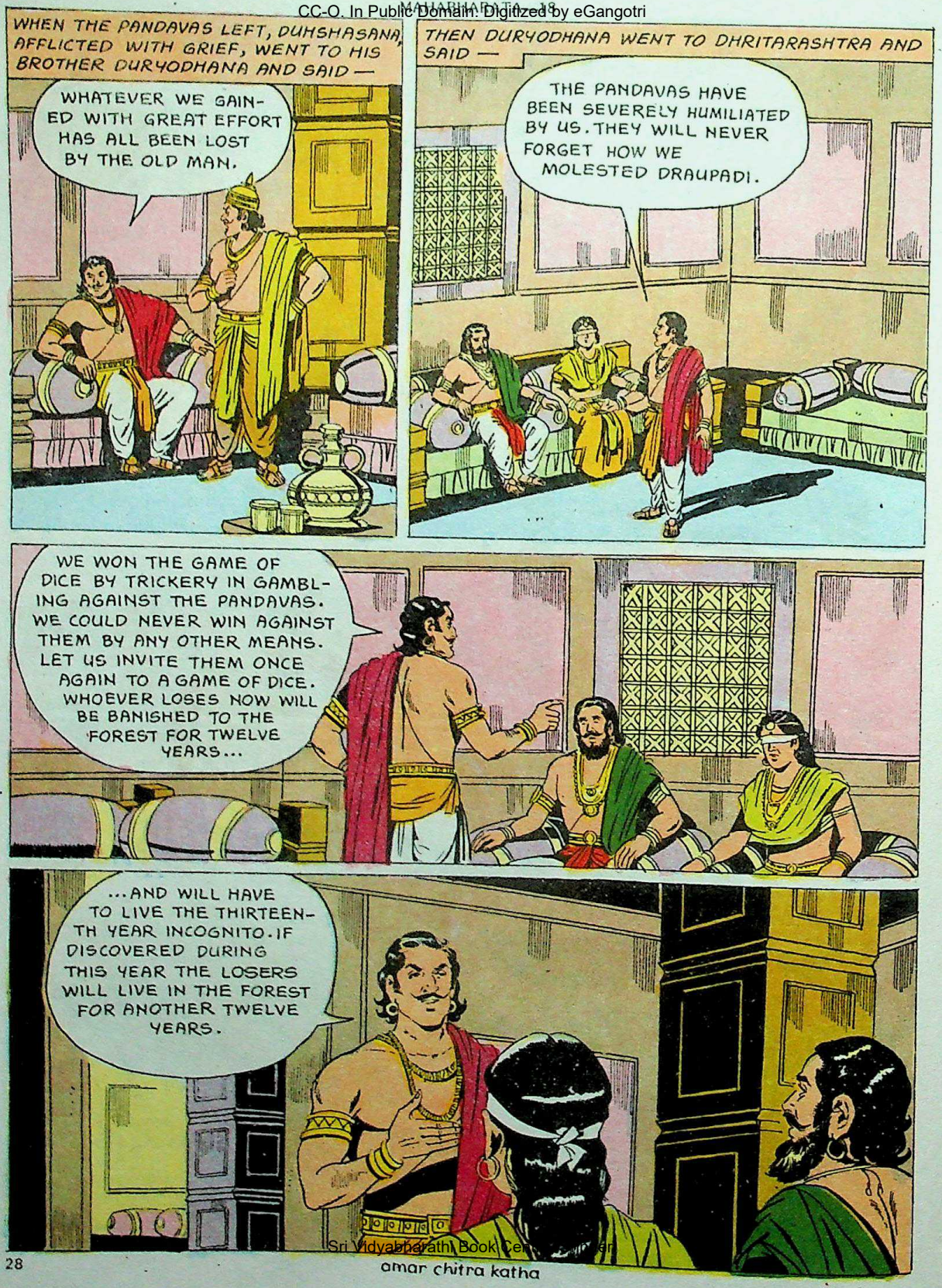

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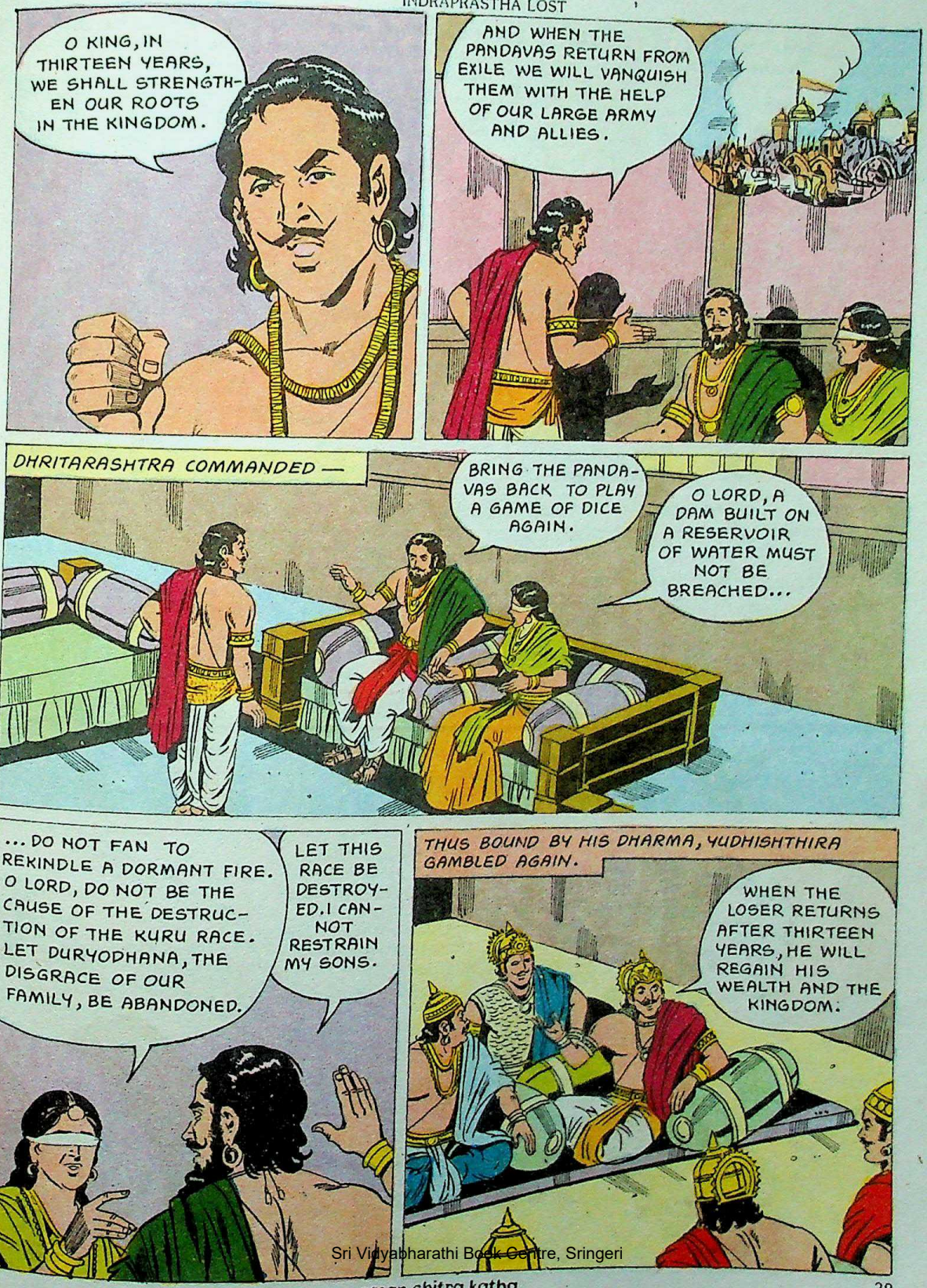

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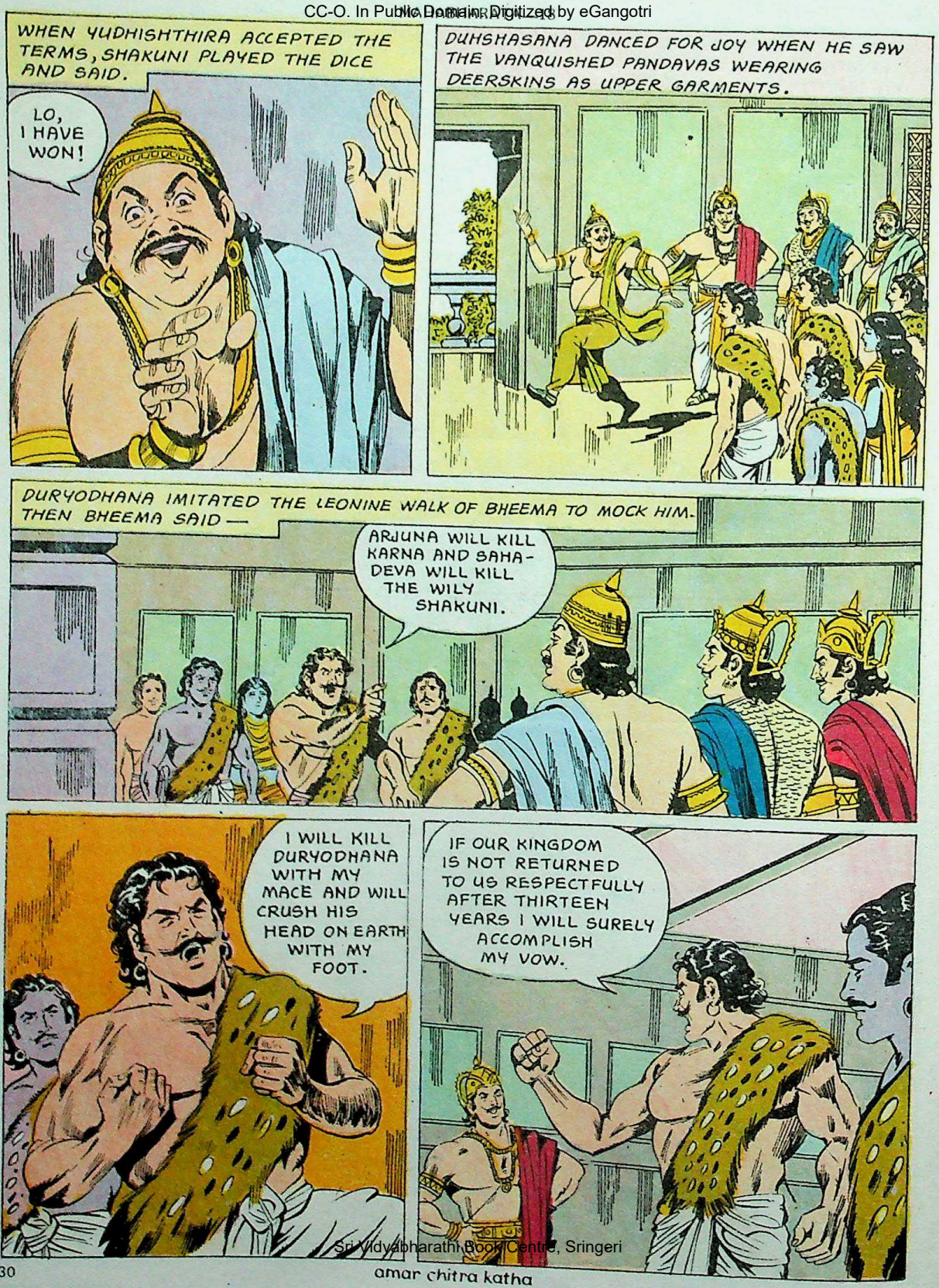

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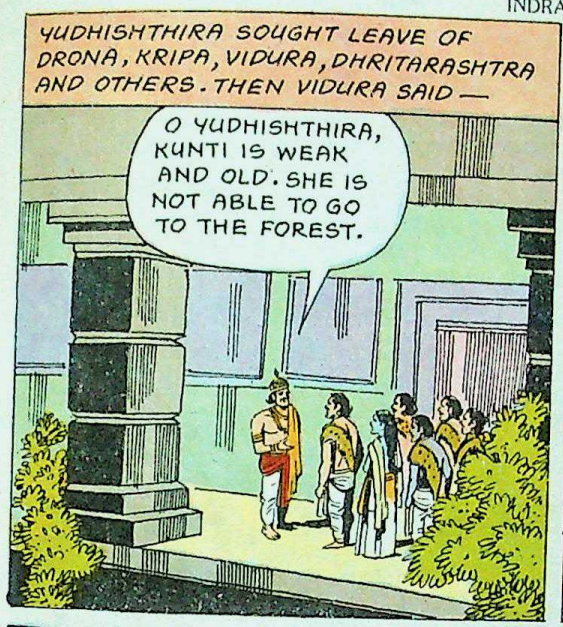
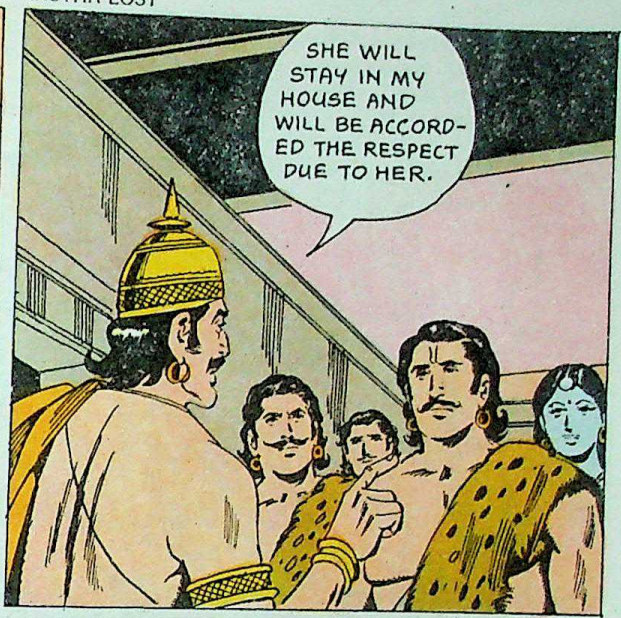
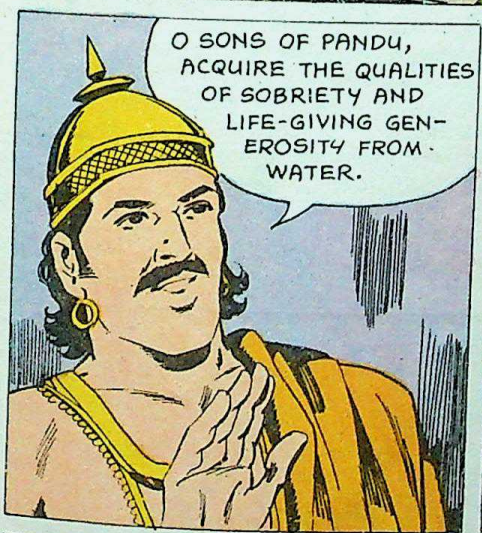
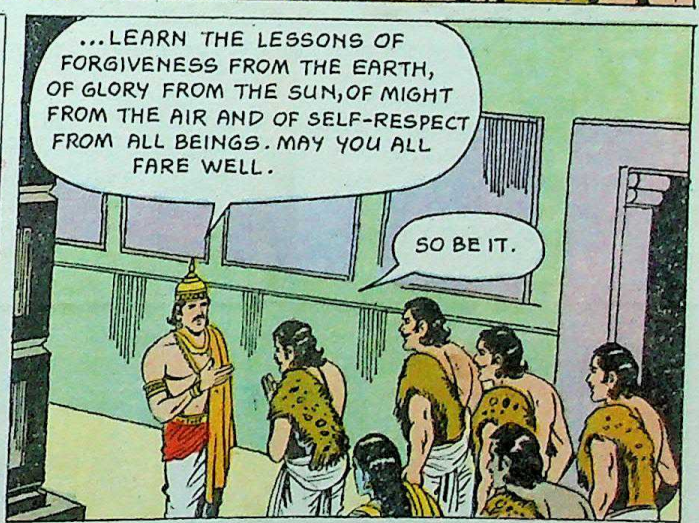
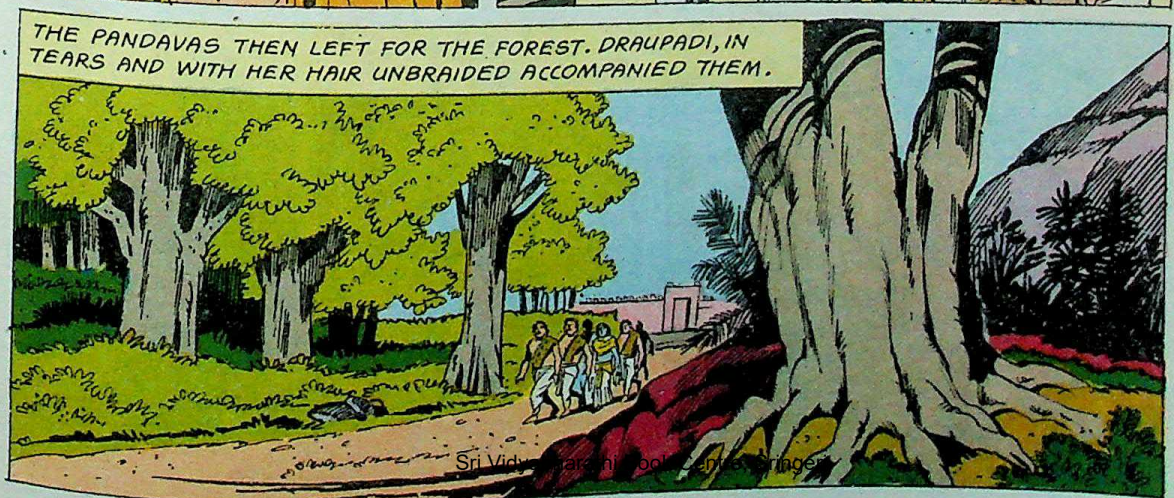

YUDHISHTHIRA SOUGHT LEAVE OF DRONA, KRIPA, VIDURA, DHRITARASHTRA AND OTHERS. THEN VIDURA SAID —
O YUDHISHTHIRA, KUNTI IS WEAK AND OLD. SHE IS NOT ABLE TO GO TO THE FOREST.


SHE WILL STAY IN MY HOUSE AND WILL BE ACCORDED THE RESPECT DUE TO HER.


O SONS OF PANDU, ACQUIRE THE QUALITIES OF SOBRIETY AND LIFE-GIVING GENEROSITY FROM WATER.


...LEARN THE LESSONS OF FORGIVENESS FROM THE EARTH, OF GLORY FROM THE SUN, OF MIGHT FROM THE AIR AND OF SELF-RESPECT FROM ALL BEINGS. MAY YOU ALL FARE WELL.
SO BE IT.


THE PANDAVAS THEN LEFT FOR THE FOREST. DRAUPADI, IN TEARS AND WITH HER HAIR UNBRAIDED ACCOMPANIED THEM.

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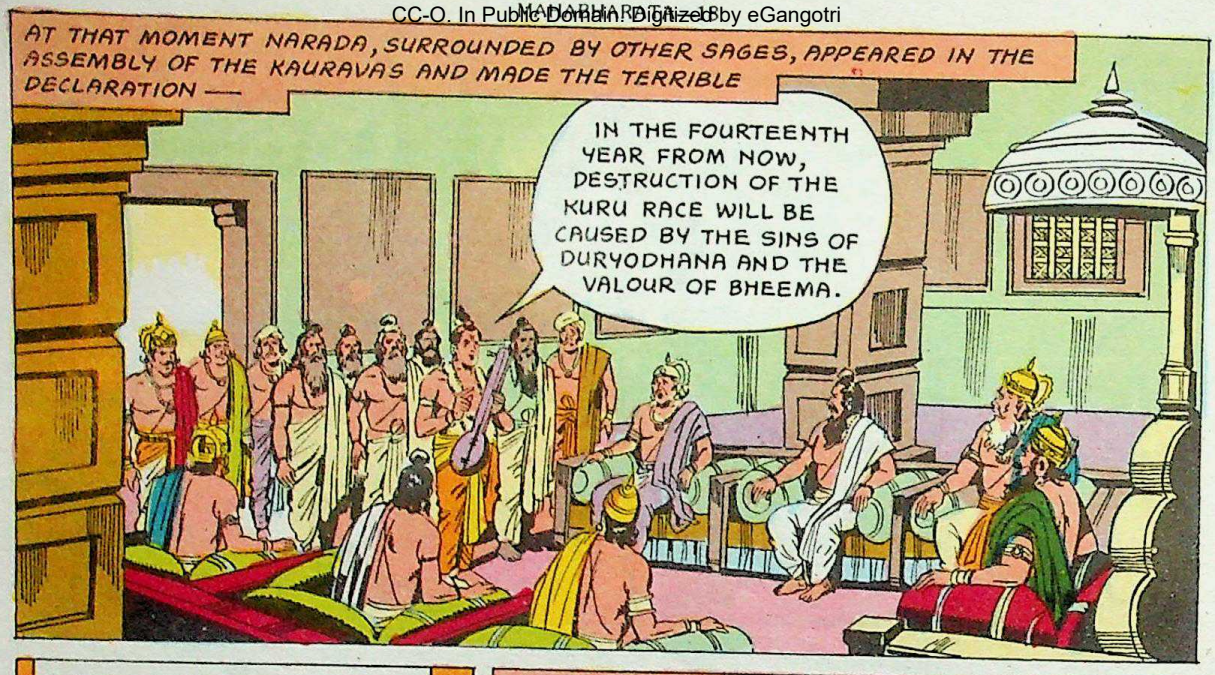

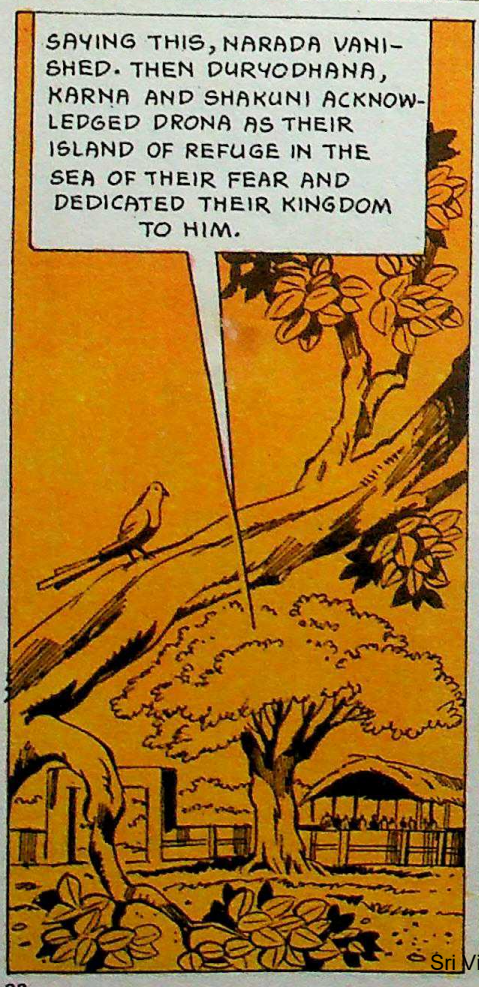

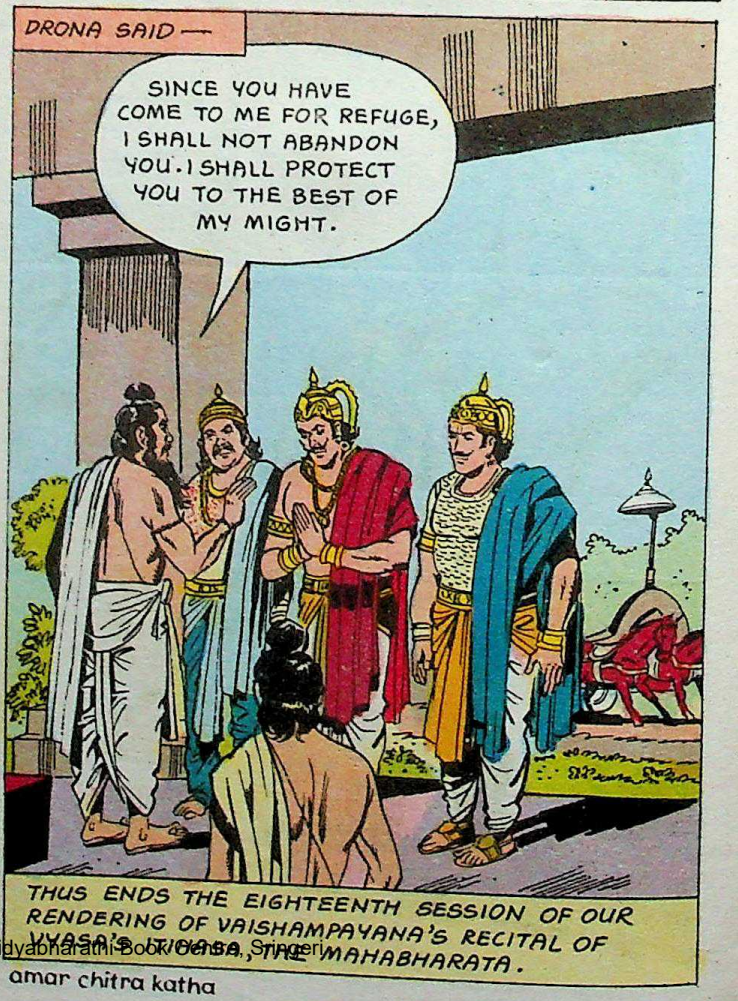

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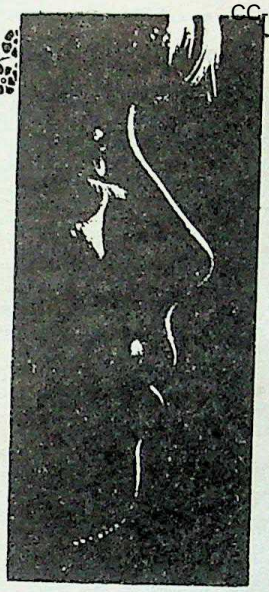

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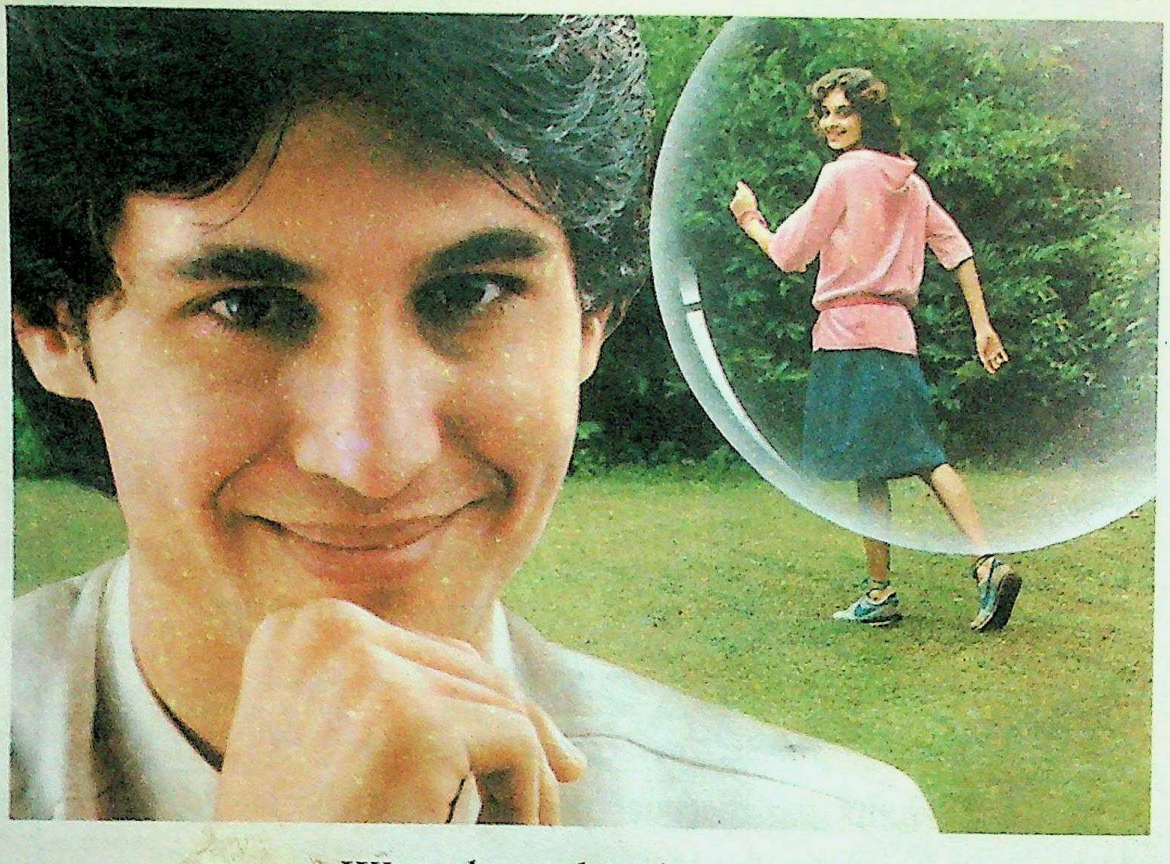
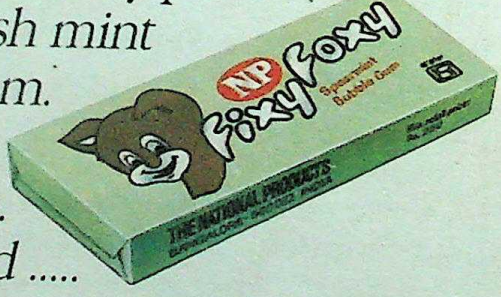


Wonder what her smile meant.
I'd walked up to her
and offered my pack
of fresh mint
bubble gum.
She popped
one in.
And she smiled .....



Was it my charm, or was it my bubble gum?

NP Fixy Foxy
Spearmint Bubble Gum